

# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 13, 2006 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

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**PRESENT:** Joe DeVito (Chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Terence Sack, Robert Staulo, Anthony Bibbo, Catherine Ehrhardt, Officer Apotheker, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Rachel Corey, Brandon Harris, Sarah Laski

**STAFF:** Beverly Droz

**GUESTS:** Kira Mascho (NSHS), Katie Sanders (NSHS), Denise Passaretti (Young Life group at NNHS)

NOTE: Tonight was the Youth Commission's **annual Youth Service Award Dinner** at 6pm. The annual Youth Service Award for 2006 was given to Judy Malone-Neville PH. D. in recognition of her distinguished career in the Newton Public Schools, serving as teacher, housemaster, principal and Asst. Superintendent. (See attached Event Program and Newton TAB article.) Several members were able to attend the dinner but not stay for the meeting; guests came for the meeting after the dinner.

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm with a round of introductions and a welcome to the guests.

**Minutes** of the May 3 Youth Commission meeting were accepted.

## **Treasurer's Report**

It was noted that for the first time, we went over budget this year and Peter Harrington sought additional funds from the Exec Dept to cover our programs. We must be careful to stay within our budget in the future, given how tight the City budget is. Bev expects that the Commission will again be funded at the \$2,500 level for Fiscal Year 2007. (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)

## **School Report**

Things are quiet. Both High Schools have had graduations. The last day for students is June 22. Kira and Katie are interested in serving on the Youth Commission in the coming year.

## **Discussion of Plans for the Upcoming Year**

- Take the old Drug and Alcohol resource booklet that the Youth Commission previously published, revive and disseminate it
- Autumn Invasion for October 2006 – discussion:
  - It's socially oriented, gets kids familiar with City Hall, unites the high schools, showcases band performances and possibly the arts. It's a celebration of youth.
  - We could expand it to include a mid-time program, w/new principals and mayor.
  - We'll probably again invite sports figures although none accepted to come last year.
  - Another idea is to include artwork from students from both high schools.
  - Proposed date: Sunday, 10/15 or 10/22 (Donna will check with HS; Bev will check when is Harvest Fest although it's not a conflict. (note: Harvest Fest is Oct 15)
  - Sarah Laski & Brandon Harris will co-chair.

- Ideas for possible educational symposiums
  - Awareness Day with police
  - Stress Symposium (but separate from Autumn Invasion)
  - Co-sponsor an event with the Human Rights Commission or the Youth Interagency Task Force

It was noted that the Needham Youth Commission issued a “credit card” for discount at participating stores on 1 side of the card, and various “help” information on the other side of the card. Their card was put on website so no cost for card. We discussed that it would take much outreach work to solicit businesses to get stores on board, create card and publicize the card so students would know about it and utilize it.

#### **Other business:**

- Youth Interagency Task Force (YITF) – Bev reported they would be meeting tomorrow morning, June 14 but the agenda was revised to allow the Health Department to present how agencies should prepare for a predicted influenza pandemic. The task force will still have time to network about each other’s programs and events.
- Relationship Violence Action Committee (RVAC) – Bev reported she attended their May 24 meeting. They are addressing violence prevention in teen relationships. She will continue to attend and network at their meetings.
- Lt. Apotheker reported that there will be a public meeting at Lincoln Elliot School tomorrow night, 6/14/06, to address and discuss the recent publicity of possible gangs in Newton. He stated that the graffiti found relates to info that kids get from internet. Police research shows that Newton doesn’t have structured gangs i.e.: such as those based on ethnic groups, drug gangs, etc. The City does a lot of collaborative work on awareness.

#### **Newton Youth Foundation committee report:**

The sub-committee had a recent meeting with the Mayor and representatives from the Newton Community Service Center, Barry Boys & Girls Club, and West Suburban YMCA. All were receptive to the ideas about a potential youth foundation. The committee needs to run plans by the City Law Department to determine if Youth Commission members can be on the board of the foundation.

The Youth Commission gave sincere thanks and appreciation to Catherine Ehrhardt for her service on the Commission for the past several years. She is leaving Riverside Community Care and moving away for another job – members wished her all the best.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 6 (right after Labor Day!) at 7:00pm in the Newton City Hall cafeteria.